**Start of Byzantines Outline**

In the postclassical period 2 major Christian civilizations took shape in Europe, which developed close Islam relations and as major trading roles.

* Byzantines from 500 to 1450 maintained high levels of political, economic, and cultural activity.
* They were heavily influenced by Romans, “the second Roman Empire” direct continuation, especially in Constantinople.
* Lasted for over a thousand of years
* Constantinople the greatest cities of the time, radiated Orthodox Christian to spread to eastern Europe
* New trade was bought to Constantinople from civilization’s spread to northern region: The Byzantines created new civilizations in Balkans and western Russia: major expansion

Byzantines influenced other nations, having major relations with Russian Area: 10th century Russia was growing strong in trade and military activity. Around Russian region state king, Vladimir started to practice Byzantines orthodox Christianity beliefs didn’t like other Religions Judaism Islam and Catholicism. Vladimir captured the major city of Byzantines and an emperor‘s relent, to be given back. A legend says Vladimir wanted to marry Byzantines Emperor’s sister. Byzantines influenced Russian arts, literature to manner. Vladimir separated the kingdom from the Roman Catholic Western Europe and Eastern became long-standing cultural division. (Its first: public/ world relations were strong/ spread to other regions) New civilization.

* It was shaped from the fall of the Roman Empire and rise of the Arabs
* beginning in the 4th century with the start of Constantinople
* Constantine built elegant buildings like Christian churches build in the Byzantium's foundation.
* Separated where the western portion fell by Germanic invaders and eastern ruled
* Peasant agriculturally based (in Balkan peninsula, northern Middle East, north Africa, Mediterranean coast) with a solid tax base, warding of the Huns
* After 6th century by Emperor Justinian, Greek became the official language and Latin seen as barbaric/ inferior
* Empire benefited from commerce in the Middle East increasing its political style
* For many centuries, Byzantines weathered many foreign enemies, they responded recruiting armies from the Middle East (not from barbarian troops)

**Justinian's Achievements**

* Before Justinian in 533 CE, the Byzantine Empire had constant threats of invasion, relying on local military bases. (Sassanian in Persia)
* Justinian was autocratic, prone to grandiose ideas, was said to be very gullible and untrustworthy leader. Justinian's wife, Theodora stiffening Justinian’s resoles to response to popular unrest and pushed of expansion.
* Contributions: rebuilding Constantinople (with high tax riots, systematic Roman legal code.

Byzantine emperor Justinian

* Created new structure like the Hagia Sophia a huge church in better engineering. (Support for domes shape)
* Created unified law to be organized similar to bureaucracy which spread Roman legal principles in parts of Europe.
* Ambiguous military exploits, the help of general Belisarius gained north Africa and Italy lose in to Germanic forces
* Flourished in arts. Centers like Ravenna, a key artistic center created Christian mosaic.

Hagia Sophia church, New Byzantine architecture

* His westward ambitions weaken the empire. He manage to fend off Persian forces, Slavic groups, Balkan with a new line of defense. This created new tax pressures to government and Justinian to exertions, contributing to his death 565CE